

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-16 (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a coated biologically active particle comprising:

a coating process (A) of applying a solution of a resin dissolved in a solvent to a surface of an uncoated particle containing a biologically active substance and forming a coated particle with a coating membrane by allowing the solvent to evaporate from the solution, and

a degas process (B) of removing volatile substances from the coated particle by exposure to a hot draft to obtain a coated biologically active particle having a concentration of the volatile substances of 500 ppm or less with respect to the coated particles, wherein the concentration of the volatile substances contained in the hot draft is less than 1 ppm, and wherein the volatile substances are solvents used at the time of preparation of the coating membrane.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) The method for producing a coated biologically active particle according to claim 17 ~~or 18~~, wherein the concentration of the volatile substances contained in the coated particles is 100 ppm or less with respect to the coated particles.

20. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a coated biologically active particle according to claim 19, wherein the concentration of the volatile substances contained in the coated particles is 10 ppm or less with respect to the coated particles.

21. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a coated biologically active particle according to claim 20, wherein the concentration of the volatile substances contained in the coated particles is 1 ppm or less with respect to the coated particles.

22. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a coated biologically active particle according to claim 17, wherein a coating membrane contains a resin and filler.

23. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a coated biologically active particle according to claim 22, wherein the filler is homogeneously dispersed in the coating membrane.

24. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a coated biologically active particle according to claim 17, wherein the resin is a thermoplastic resin.

25. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a coated biologically active particle according to claim 24, wherein the thermoplastic resin is one or more resin selected from among olefinic polymers or olefinic copolymers.

26. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a coated biologically active particle according to claim 25, wherein the thermoplastic resin is one or more resin selected from among polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene-propylene copolymers, ethylene-carbon monoxide copolymers, ethylene-hexene copolymers, ethylene-butene copolymers, or propylene-butene copolymers.

27. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a coated biologically active particle according to claim 17, wherein the solvents are one or more solvents selected from among carbon-based organic solvents or chlorine-based organic solvents.

28. (Currently Amended) The method for producing a coated biologically active particle according to claim ~~27~~ 17, wherein the solvents are one or more solvents selected from toluene, xylene, tetrachloroethylene, or trichloroethylene.

29. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a coated biologically active particle according to claim 17, wherein the biologically active substances are fertilizers.

30. (Previously Presented) The method for producing a coated biologically active particle according to claim 17, wherein the biologically active substances are pesticides.